

35. An electrically conducting soft metal structure according to claim 2 wherein said second layer is formed by at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Cu and alloys of Cu with at least one member selected from the group consisting of C, B, N, Group IIIA elements, Group IVA elements and Group VA elements.

36. The soft metal conductor according to claim 1 being a plated soft metal conductor.

37. The soft metal conductor according to claim 36 being an electroplated or electrolessly plated metal conductor.

Remarks

Claims 1-37 are pending in the instant application. The instant application is a reissue application. The Applicants have submitted a Preliminary Amendment and Status of Claims and Support for Claims for starting the reissue proceedings. Initially allowed claims 1-16 are still pending in the instant application. Claims 17-37 have been introduced. Claims 17-37 are structure claims. A separate paper is supplied showing support in the specification for each of the introduced claims, as required.

Claims in the issued patent were drawn to structures.

Figure 6 is being amended to more clearly reflect the values that are shown in the figure and to correct an inadvertent typographical error. A substitute page has been included with this mailing as required. The second value (corresponding to the circle) shown in the graph was an inadvertent typographical error and should have read 140, not 1400.

Consideration and allowance of claims 1 - 37 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re reissue application of:
Rajiv Vasant Joshi

Application for Reissue of U.S. Patent 6,335,569

Title: Soft Metal Conductor and Method of Making

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES

Mail Stop Reissue
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. The status of the claims as a result of the amendment submitted herewith is:

Claims cancelled: none.
Claims amended: none.
Claims added: 17-37.

2. Explanation or, or support for, new claims:

This is a broadened reissue application in view of newly-presented claims 17-35. The broadening is directed to at least not reciting “. . . at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Al, Cu and Ag”, as recited in independent patent claims 1 and 10. In addition, independent claims 22, 29 and 33 are further broadened by also not reciting “grain sizes larger than 200 nm”, as recited in independent patent claim 1, and by not reciting “grain sizes not smaller than about 20% of the thickness of said second metal layer, as recited in independent patent claim 10.

In the instant reissue, applicants are pursuing the allowance of 37 claims. Claims 1-16 were allowed in the original issued patent. Claims 17-37 have been added. The applicants have not amended claims 1-16 and request that those claims, and claims 17-37, be prosecuted in their present form.

Four independent claims were introduced in the preliminary amendment accompanying the reissue request. Three of the four independent claims have a set of dependent claims associated with it. Support for each of the claims can be found in at least one of the originally filed application's specification, claims or figures.

Support for independent claim 17, and claims 18-21 which ultimately depend on claim 17, can be found in the specification, claims or figures. Specifically:

<i>support for claim(s):</i>	<i>can be found at least at:</i>
17	col. 2, line 1, col. 3, lines 51-54, col. 4, lines 17, 38 and 39, and col. 6, lines 15-16.
18	col. 10, lines 44-45 and 52-53.
19	col. 5, lines 61-63 and col. 12, lines 14-19.
20 and 21	col. 4, lines 17, 38 and 39, and col. 6, lines 15-16.

Support for independent claim 22, and claims 23-28 which ultimately depend on claim 22, can be found in the specification, claims or figures. Specifically:

<i>support for claim(s):</i>	<i>can be found at least at:</i>
22	col. 1, lines 60-64 and col. 3, lines 34-37.
23 and 24	col. 5, lines 61-63.
25 and 26	col. 4, lines 17, 38 and 39, and col. 6, lines 15-16.
27 and 28	col. 6, lines 30-31, col. 7, lines 6-7, Figs. 7 and 8 and col. 12, lines 3-4.

Support for independent claim 29, and claims 30-32 which ultimately depend on claim 29 can be found in the specification, claims or figures. Specifically:

<i>support for claim(s):</i>	<i>can be found at least at:</i>
29	col. 6, lines 51-65.
30	col. 2, lines 13-17
31 and 32	col. 5, lines 61-63.

Support for independent claim 33, and claim 34 which ultimately depends on claim 33, can be found in the specification, claims or figures. Specifically:

<i>support for claim(s):</i>	<i>can be found at least at:</i>
33	col. 7, lines 63-67 and col. 3, lines 22-25.
34	col. 6, lines 30-31, col.7, lines 6-7, and Figures 7 and 8.

<i>Support for claim:</i>	<i>can be found at least at:</i>
35	col. 4, lines 28-30 and col. 10, lines 19-21.

<i>Support for claim(s):</i>	<i>can be found at least at:</i>
36 and 37	col. 4, lines 17, 38 and 39, and col. 6, lines 15-16.

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